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A COLUMN OF NOTES.

CONCERNING MANY DIFFERENT SUBJECTS IN WHICH THE FARMER IS INTERESTED.

A calf dropped in the fall should be a good one to rear—that is, of course, provided it has good teeth and is of the right appearance. The calf calf begins life in a warm world, and one in which there are not as troubles as during the summer months, and the little animal has plenty of time to begin to grow, and become stronger and accustomed to the cold of the following spring, when it is in first-year condition to go to pasture and profit fully by the pasture grasses. The fall calf has much to recommend it, and there is good reason to expect it to make a fine cow.

Study soils are always deficient in potash. Even if they had this mineral they have usually so little vegetable matter that the potash forms an insoluble compound by uniting with the sand. The potash in caustic soda is of the same quality, and also helps itself until its caustic action is as unbeneficial as the sandy soils as are unbeneficial. They always contain some potash and some phosphate, which the water used for leaching would not dissolve.

Mr. G. L. McKay, of the Iowa State Dairy School, tells buttermakers if they wish to make unwashed butter use about one-half more salt than usual, work the butter, say, for two minutes and then let it stand for three or four hours. The extra salt assists in expelling the moisture and will pass off with the butter-milk. Then rework. He has frequently seen butter made like this, where the brine was as clear as if the butter had been washed a couple of times.

In all grain-growing districts straw is plentiful, and where it is used as feed it is reckoned, and rightly, as food of very inferior nutrition. The idea of using it to feed fattening stock is said to have originated with Joseph J. Mechi, a London Alderman, who a generation ago made his name famous by his writings on agricultural topics. His largely imported linseed meal for fattening hogs. But he found that if cut hay was used to extend the ration only a small amount of the meal consumed with cut straw less of the corned would be eaten than when fed with cut hay. This vindicates the practice of American farmers, who feed much Indian corn and comparatively little oil meal.

Mend the guinea; gravel the walks; patch leaky roofs; put a board floor in the stable and cowshed; nail boards on the walls of barns and other out-houses, if any are missing. Snug up all your surroundings for the cold weather that is near.

Great Britain has more than 30,000,000 sheep on a territory not greatly in excess of Minnesota and Iowa. France has 20,000,000 on a much smaller area. While the sheep are so numerous they seem able to make profit out of their sheep. This country has room for a much greater number.

The middleman is a necessity. If a farmer had a thousand bushels of wheat to sell he could never retail it. He is compelled to sell in bulk or lose more than the wheat is worth. The middleman is the distributor, and they are also consumers. The farmer can get rid of his surplus wheat in many ways, by seeking markets near home for articles that are readily salable, such as butter and eggs, but if he buys from his neighbor any of the articles he sells then he, too, becomes a middleman, as he handles the product of his neighbor between the producer and consumer.

If grapes are bagged they will be partially protected from rot, insects and birds, but the bagging should be done just as soon as the little bunches are formed. The earlier the work is done the better.

Spraying of fruit trees and vines should be done early, and it will be an advantage to do so during mild periods of winter. The trees may be affected with fungi on the trunks and limbs, and it is not necessary to wait until sap begins to flow or the buds to open. Spraying can be done at any time, as it is work that cannot be performed too frequently.

When making whitewash use lime and skin milk and the whitewash will last longer. If a red color is desired use fresh bullock's blood, which will still further improve it. The mixture soon becomes almost insoluble.

An open winter is the time to plow. It gives advance time for doing the spring work and it brings to the surface many insects which remain below the soil but which are easily destroyed when exposed to the frost of the ground. It matters not how wet the ground may be when plowed in winter, as the freezing of the soil, when a cold spell comes, will pulverize it and reduce all lumps and clods.

It may surprise some to be told that it is almost time to set out early cabbage, but those who grow the earliest heads set them out in cold frames and cover them at night. It is a laborious method, but the article that pay best are those that require the most labor.

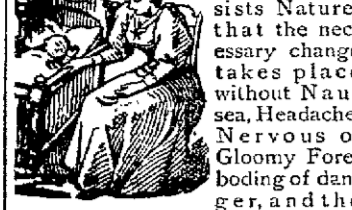
The use of charcoal for pigs is general, and it proves beneficial, but to derive the best results from its use the charcoal should be freshly burned. It is an indigestible substance, its virtue being derived from its capacity for absorbing gases, which power it has in common with all carbonaceous substances. A certain extent when the charcoal has been exposed to the air for a time. If the old charcoal is heated in a hot fire for a few minutes, however, it will be restored to its original fresh condition.

The really extravagant farmer is he who saves in buying seeds. There may be a difference in seeds on the market, but to the farmer there should be no such thing in his vocabulary as "poor seed." No seed is worth more than much dirt. It is not strictly good and true to variety. The use of poor seed, which fails to germinate, and which compels the farmer to replant, may cause the loss of weeks in the spring, making his crop late. And that is the worst, for he also loses the advantage of the early rains and his yield will thereby be reduced. With certain crops there is also a loss in quality and prices. The seed used is everything on a farm.

MANY THANK!

when the Creator said to woman, "In sorrow shalt thou bring forth children," that a curse was pronounced against the human race, but the joy felt by every Mother when she first presses to her heart her babe, proves the contrary. Danger and suffering lurk in the pathway of the Expectant Mother, and should be avoided, that she may reach the hour when the hope of her heart is to be realized, in full vigor and strength.

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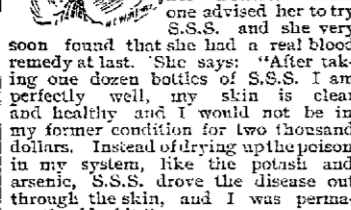
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Mrs. V. T. Buck, of Delaney, Ark., had Scrofula for twenty-five years and most of the time was under the care of the doctors who could not relieve her.



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Early in the spring is when the new strawberry beds should be made, and those who contemplate having them can not prepare the ground too soon. It is a fact that but few farmers, comparatively, know how to grow strawberries. It was for a long time believed that it was difficult and laborious to grow them, when, in fact, there is no crop grown in a garden that can be produced so easily, or which gives such valuable results in proportion to cost. They can be had on every farm and abundantly. Growers who make their land produce maximum crops have secured 10,000 quarts per acre. A garden that can be produced so easily, or which gives such valuable results in proportion to cost. They can be had on every